(2) Medical Relief.

110. The need for encouraging the Ayurvedic system of medical treatment and introducing certain improvements in the Native Vaidyasala Department.

Mr. M. K. Padmanabha Kaniyar (Member, Nominated) thanked His Highness' Government for electing him as the representative of his community and for affording an opportunity to the members of his community to participate in the deliberations of the Assembly.

Proceeding to his subject, the Member made the following suggestions for the improvement of the Ayurvedic system of treatment :—

(1) The Head of the Department of Vaidyasalas should be one proficient in both the Ayurvedic and the English systems of treatment.

(2) A new set of rules should be formulated for the distribution of grants to Vaidyasalas in consonance with the conditions of the times.

(3) The Native Vaidyans should be divided into several grades and the distribution of grant should be made in accordance with the proficiency of the Vaidyan and the importance of the Vaidyasala.

(4) The grant should not be below Rs. 20 and the number of Vaidyasalas should be increased.

(5) The students in the Ayurveda Patasala should undergo a practical training in midwifery and obstetrics and general surgery. The Vaidyasalas should be equipped with the necessary instruments and appliances for the purpose.

(6) Vaidyans of established reputation, although they did not possess examination certificates, should also be recognised and encouraged.

(7) Two officers should be appointed to select proper Vaidyans and to inspect the Vaidyasalas.

(8) A central store for the preparation of important medicines and for their distribution to the several Vaidyasalas should be established at the capital under the control and supervision of the Government.

Mr. C. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) pointed out how the Ayurvedic system of medical treatment was suited to the climatic conditions of the country and how it ought to be rendered more useful to the people. He then mad the following suggestions for the improvement of the Native Vaidyasala Department :—

(1) Most of the Vaidyasalas did not contain an adequate supply of medicines. A minimum stock of medicines should be insisted on and it should form a condition precedent to the award of grant.

(2) Distribution of grant should be made in accordance with the proficiency and professional reputation of the Vaidyans and the importance of the Vaidyasala.

(3) The Head of the Department should examine the stock of medicine in each Vaidyasala and supervise the system of treatment adopted by the Vaidyans.

(4) The students of the Ayurveda Patasala did not possess sufficient knowledge to distinguish the various ingredients of medicines or to prepare those medicines. They should be given a practical course of training in that direction before they were certified to be competent to treat cases. The Government should establish a laboratory for the purpose.

(5) The head of the Patasala should be proficient in the Ayurvedic and the English systems of treatment. Two students should be deputed to Calcutta and other places to undergo training in the latest method of Ayurvedic treatment.

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(6) The students of the Patasala should undergo a course of practical surgery either in the General Hospital or under a competent Apothecary appointed for the purpose.

(7) The present grants to Vaidyans were quite inadequate and should be raised so as to make the Vaidyasalas really useful institutions.

(8) Visha Vaidyasalas should be specially encouraged by increasing their number and giving them liberal grants. It is a rule with Visha Vaidyans that they should not receive any remuneration for treatment. Hence the need for specially liberal grants in their case.

Mr. V. S. Krishna Pillai (Member, Thiruvella taluk) also spoke in support of the recommendations of the previous speakers and urged the necessity for appointing a competent person who was proficient in both the Ayurvedic and English systems of treatment as the Head of the Department. He also urged the importance of a practical course of training in surgery and in the preparation of medicines.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

111. The need for opening a dispensary, or at least a bi-weekly dispensary, at Manimala.

Mr. Thomman Dominic (Member, Peermade taluk) said that the *pakuthies* of Manimala, Ezhumattur, Vellavur and Cheruvalli were hilly in nature and a dispensary for the people of the locality was a sorely felt want. At present they had to be served by the dispensary at Kanjirapalli, which was situated 10 miles away. Malarial fever often visited the places. A circular of the department required that medicines to out-patients should not be given without examining the patients. In view of the difficulty in carrying patients to such a long distance, the poor people meekly bowed to disease. He therefore prayed that a dispensary be opened at Manimala, but if the Government could not see their way to do that, he requested that a bi-weekly dispensary should at least be sanctioned, the work being attended to by one of the Medical Officers of the Kanjirapalli hospital. Even a bi-weekly dispensary would be a great boon in such out-of-the-way places.

Dewans' reply.—The Durbar Physician has promised to inspect the locality and report on the matter. His report will be awaited.

VII. EDUCATION.

112. Education in Travancore—some defects and their remedies.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) thanked His Highness' Government for their sympathetic consideration of the several representations made by the Members of the Assembly on the subject of education and the Education Code during the last session of the Assembly.

The Member proposed to deal with his subject under four heads, Collegiate, Secondary, Primary and Technical education.

Collegiate education.—The crying evil of the present day was the stringency of the soulless rules and regulations relating to the admission of students to His Highness the Maha Raja's College, which was one of the pioneer institutions in South India. The School Final Examination turned out a large number of young men every year, who were anxious to prosecute their studies in the College. But admissions were at present not a matter of course as they used to be in the good old days, but a subject calling for the due exercise of discretion on the part of a powerful body called the College Council which exercised such discretion in secret conclave unknown to public view. The result was that the boys were forced to depend upon the uncertainties of an *exparte* decision and then seek admission in new fields outside Travancore. The number of students who thus went out of Travancore to prosecute their studies was becoming larger and larger every year. The number of Travancore students in the colleges of the Madras Presidency was going up by rapid strides. There were about a thousand boys who were thus forced to desert their homes to obtain the blessings of education. The subject had been brought to the notice of

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